

Salem Lamartine 11:00

5/4/69

*Processional Hymn /8

*Choral Call to Worship

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture John 14; 6-15

Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

Announcements 11:00

May 25; Comm. ~~9:30~~ Rev. Defibaugh

May 18 Mens Choir Butler?

WFO 8:00 CHAM PRACTICE

Offering, Response, Prayer

Hymn 394

Communion

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn /87

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

Call to Worship: Know that the Lord is God;

It is He that made us, and we are His;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Call to Confession: Come now let us reason together

s_us the Lord; though your sins ~~be~~ are like scarlet,

they shall be white as snow; though they are like

crimson, they shall become like wool. Come let us

confess our sin together.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: Ask and it will be given you;

seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened

to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who

seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Amen.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH IS ~~REOPENING~~ HAVING
AN ORGAN RECITAL ON THEIR NEW ORGAN
THIS ~~AFTERNOON~~ EVENING AT 7:30. ALL
ARE INVITED.

NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY DURING
CHURCH.

SPECIAL FUND FOR HOME AND HOME

TRINITY CHURCH--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP May 2, 1971

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise #15 verses 1, 2, 3, 5
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Almighty God, thou knowest that we have not
lived the life of which we are capable. Thou
knowest that we have gifts which we have not
used or that we have misused. Thou knowest
that we have not loved thee above all lesser
concerns, and that we have utterly failed to
love our neighbor as ourselves. Thou knowest,
O Lord, that we are not even able to love our-
selves. Have mercy and forgive us, Lord, for
Christ's sake. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture
Old Testament----Genesis 1:26-31
New Testament----John 14:6-11
*The Gloria Patri
nthem (Trinity)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements --- *DEDICATION*
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 68
The Sermon----"If I Look In The Mirror, Whose
Image Do I See?"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 226
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude
*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mercersburg Association will meet today
in First United Church of Christ in Carlisle,
at 3:00 P.M. Anyone who wants to attend may
do so.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning we are dedicating the gifts of a
receiving basin and a flower vase given as a
memorial to Stanley Hair. We express our
sincere thanks and gratitude to The Hair Co.
employees for their thoughtfulness in making
this presentation in memory of their late
employer. These gifts now become a living
memorial to Stanley, to be used in the service
of the church he served so well.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Consistory at 7:30 P.M. Monday May 3rd.

The Missionary Circle will conduct services at
the Kinkora Home Sunday May 9th.

In The Image of God

Text: Acts 17:29

"Since we are the children of God, we have no excuse for thinking that the city looks like anything in gold, silver or stone that has been carved and designed by a man."

STORY OF PAUL IN ATHENS & UNKNOWN GOD.

"God created man in the image of Himself, in the image of God He created him." This is how the author of Genesis describes the creation of man. ~~If you will recall we read this as part of our Scripture for last week. We discussed the creation of the universe and all that was made. Today I would like to carry this one step further and discuss the idea of man being created in the~~ image of God. What does this mean? Can we literally think of it as meaning that each one of us actually looks like God? These are some intriguing thoughts and can involve quite a bit of thinking once one begins to contemplate them.

Two men were discussing the creation of man. Both of them were religious. One was a scientist and one was not. The scientist believed that man had descended from the animals ~~and~~ while the other man did not. The scientist tried to convince the other man of the rightness of his argument, but he could not. The other fellow listened quietly for awhile and then he asked the question, "You say that man descended from the animals?" The scientist said, "Right." And in particular they descended from the apes?" "Right again," the scientist said. "Well then to put this whole argument into perspective we must draw some logical conclusions," the other fellow told the scientist. "So if God created man in His own image, and man descended from the apes, this would mean that God must have been an ape." Now this ^{is} hardly logical we must admit. It proves the argument of the two men involved, but it does not settle the age old ~~dispute~~ ^{THE} dispute about the image of God. But to settle ~~this~~ dispute about the animals we need to but look at a few examples. There are some large apes who do have some human characteristics. But ^{As Found in GEN. 2} this does not mean that man came about in this way. In the story of creation we are told very distinctly that man became something much different from the animals. Of all of creation, man is the only one who has the reasoning and thinking power. And man has a soul. These two things separate him from being a mere animal.

The followers of Jesus asked Him what God looked like. He told them that if they saw Him they saw God. Now this makes it all the more confusing. Once by His answer, He implies that God appeared as He did. In other words God had the same features as Jesus. This is what we are led to believe. However I believe that this is erroneous, since we are taking this explanation in the wrong context. To see Jesus is to see what God is like. Not in looks, but in likeness. When we see Jesus we see God in the everyday world. Not a being sitting far off and removed, but right down here among us. God came into an ordinary home and into an ordinary family. Francis Thompson wrote a poem entitled, "Ex Ore Infantum," a few lines of which read, "Little Jesus wast Thou shy once, and just so small as I? And what did it feel to be out of heaven and just like me?" In other words Jesus was God in human form. He felt the same things that all humans feel. He encountered many of the same problems that many humans meet. And He was as human as you and I.

~~And then the thought of~~ God becoming man evokes another thought and this is what God was thought to be coming in the form of a warrior. The Messiah was to be a conquering hero. To this thought George Macdonald wrote a few lines of poetry, "They were all looking for a king To slay their foes, and lift them high; Thou camest, a little baby thing, That made a woman cry." ^{C. J. F.} A child's verse reads, "There was a knight of Bethlehem Whose wealth was tears and sorrows; His men at arms were little lambs; His trumpeters were sparrows." What is being pointed out here again is the fact of Jesus humanity. He came into the world as you and I. He was not a wealthy king or warrior. He was a common man in His human-side.

Then we look at Jesus and we see His qualities. All of them were good. He was compassionate. He showed love. He showed joy and sorrow. He wanted to help, to be of assistance. He wanted to share Himself with others. These are the qualities of Jesus, at least some of them. But all of them can't help but make us see the image of God. Now if these were the qualities that Jesus had, and Jesus is the Son of God, or God in human form, and we possess these qualities and are human also, then we should see the image of God in ourselves. But do we? Or do we see in mankind other qualities that are completely alien and foreign to God?

The answer is that we see qualities that are foreign to God and the image of God as we understand it. So how do we account for this? Well again we need to look at the account of creation to discover this. In the account we find the story of Adam and Eve. The story of the original sin. Now however this came about is again immaterial. What is more important is the fact that we must realize that God gave man all of His good qualities. That He invested him with love, and mercy, pity, justice, freedom, joy, sorrow, happiness etc. What He did not give him was hatred and cruelty, anger, malice, jealousy, envy etc. These are the end results of man rebelling against God. Man trying to do his own thing. Man at his worst and not his best. When we think of God do we ever think of Him hating one particular person? Or do we ever think of him as being cruel? We think of Him in terms of love and compassion, of being just and fair don't we? This is God as we know Him. I think that the term in the image of God, means just this. That we were given all of the good things from God. That we have or possess all of the qualities for peace and joy and happiness right within each of us. And at the qualities of hatred and cruelty and envy have crept into us and perverted the image of God. These were not a part of the original creation and were never meant to be. The entire Old Testament never lets us lose sight of the ideal. Of what God wants man to be. And so the struggle goes on and on. But then we come to the New Testament and we see that God reveals Himself to man once again. He comes to man in his own form. He comes in the form that man can recognize, another man. Jesus came to show man how he should live. He also came to sacrifice Himself for all of mankind. This is the proof of the love of God, that He came in the form of man, to man to save him and redeem him. The ~~Interpreters~~ Bible uses ^{the thought} ~~several~~ ~~sentences~~ about the Old Testament and the story it tells, "It keeps reminding every man that he is never true to himself, and that he can never really be content, until he is brought back to the great thoughts and the lofty impulses which were planted in him as his heritage from God." This of course is the ideal. But we can all recognize that to live as good a life as we can requires help. Well here again is where God has thought of His creation. We can have this help when we have need of it. All we need to do is to call upon God and He will help us.

To some ~~people~~ this ~~may~~ sound like a too ideal situation. But it involves a certain amount of love, of sincerity and of trust. We cannot come to ~~God~~ unless we do love Him. And we certainly must be sincere and trusting. God will never answer us if we do not love Him, and certainly He will never answer if we do not believe in His powers to help. Our main concern in our lives should be that God will help us to change our lives. To become better persons and to live better lives. Too often our concern and our prayers are for material things or for ^{our} selfish reasons. But God did not create us in His image and not have a plan in mind for us. We are each one a very vital part of God's plan. He loves us and He cares for each of us. He created us in His image and how we live and what we do should be very foremost ~~in~~ our minds. If we live and act as animals, then we are perverting the image of God. But if we ^{TRY TO} live a ^{GOOD} ~~clean-decent~~ life in the service of our Lord and for the benefit of mankind, then we are glorifying the image of God. This is what we should be doing. So we need to look at ourselves and ask the question, "Am I living a life of glorification of the image of God, or am I being just the opposite?" God grant that we may ever glorify Him. Let us pray.